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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3033

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2174

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY GR TU

SUBJ: CYPRUS: GREEK POSITION ON TURKISH SHIFT OF TERMS OF
REFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: GOG IS CONCERNED THAT US HAS MISCONCEPTION
OF TURKISH POSITION RE "FEDERATION" ISSUE AND SEEKS USG
GOOD OFFICES "AT APPROPRIATE MOMENT" TO HELP RELAUNCH
INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ON ORIGINAL 1968 BASIS. END SUMMARY.

2. CYPRUS COUNTRY DIRECTOR METAXAS ASKED CHARGE TO VISIT
MFA APRIL 8. METAXAS INTRODUCED SUBJECT BY REMARKING
ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS AND GREEK GOVERNMENT'S
DESIRE TO PRESENT PICTURE FROM ITS VIEW POINT. MFA
RECEIVED CABLE FROM GREEK EMBASSY WASHINGTON REPORTING
PANAYOTAKOS' CONVERSATION WITH CHURCHILL/BOYATT AND
ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM ITS EMBASSY IN NICOSIA REPORTING
MEETING WITH U.S. EMBOFF BOTH WHICH GIVE IMPRESSION THAT
USG DOES NOT UNDERSTAND REAL TURKISH INTENT RE
FEDERATION. METAXAS SAID PANAYOTAKOS FELT DEPTOFFS
BELIEVED THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN TURKISH POSITION AS
FAR AS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS CONCERNED.

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3. METAXAS LAUNCHED INTO EXPLANATION OF WHY ECEVIT AND DENKTASH'S STATEMENTS RE "INDEPENDENT AND FEDERAL" CYPRUS CHANGED BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS. CHARGE QUERIED WHETHER TURKS HAD NOT MADE EARLIER REFERENCES TO "FEDERAL" TO WHICH METAXAS REPLIED THAT BEFORE TURKS MENTIONED FEDERAL AS DESIRABLE SOLUTION BUT NOW FEDERAL IS INCORPORATED IN POLICY STATEMENT BY PM AND HENCE IT GAINS STRENGTH. CHARGE REJOINED THAT TURKS HAVE ASSURED US THAT THEY HAVE NOT SHIFTED POSITION. METAXAS RESPONDED THAT NOT ONLY HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL TURKISH REFERENCES TO FEDERATION POINTED TO SHIFT BUT ALSO TURKISH ACTIONS IN NEGOTIATIONS. SPECIFICALLY HE CITED ALDIKACTI'S INSISTENCE ON REOPENING FORMULA ON STRUCTURE OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AGREED UPON IN SEPTEMBER 1973 AND TURKISH SHIFT MORE RECENTLY ON CENTRAL AUTHORITY FORMULA. GOG INTERPRETS BOTH THESE CHANGES IN AGREED UPON FORMULAS AS EVIDENCE THAT TURKS HAVE REVISED NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS. CHARGE ASKED WHETHER TURKS RAISING "FEDERATION" ISSUE MIGHT NOT BE PART OF SEESAW WITH GREEKS PERMITTING "ENOSIS" POSTERS AND WALL WRITINGS IN ATHENS, HOLDING MEETINGS SUPPORTING UNION WITH MOTHER HELLAS, ETC. METAXAS AGREED THAT POSTURING FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE IS POSSIBILITY, BUT EVIDENCE NOW INDICATES TURKS WANT BASIC CHANGE IN TERMS OF REFERENCE. CYPRUS GOVERNMENT IS IN AWKWARD POSITION WITH FEDERATION ISSUE, SINCE IT WILL BE BLAMED FOR FAILURE OF TALKS IF IT REJECTS FEDERATION, AND IF IT QUIETLY ACQUIESCES, THEN TURKS WILL GAIN ADVANTAGE THROUGH GOC'S TACIT ACCEPTANCE OF SEPARATION/PARTITION.

4. CHARGE ASKED WHETHER GOG REGARDED INTERRUPTION IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AS LINKED TO OTHER ASPECTS OF GOT/GOG RELATIONS. METAXAS DID NOT BELIEVE SO.

5. TURNING TO SOVIET DEMARCHE, METAXAS DESCRIBED IT AS TEMPERATE REPRESENTATION WHICH HAD NOT EVOKED UNUSUAL REACTION IN GREECE. CHARGE SAID DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIES HEARD OUT SOVIET DEMARCHE MADE IN WASHINGTON BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN NONCOMMITTAL AND WE WERE GIVING IT LOW-KEY TREATMENT. METAXAS SAID GOG VIEWED SOVIET APPROACH AS CHAACTERISTIC

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SOVIET TACTIC OF ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT SITUATION WHENEVER OPPORTUNITY ARISES. TO CHARGE'S QUESTION ON WHAT MOTIVATED SOVIETS, METAXAS SHRUGGED "OH, YOU KNOW THE RUMORS." CHARGE REMARKED THAT SOVIET DIPLOMATS HERE HAD NOT FOLLOWED UP WITH US AS THEY OFTEN DO AFTER LAUNCHING DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES.

6. METAXAS NOTED UN ASSISTANT SYG GUYER WOULD BE IN

ATHENS APRIL 10 AND WOULD CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER AND PERHAPS PRIME MINISTER. GUYER MET WITH AMBASSADOR LAGAKOS AND CYPRIOT OFFICIALS, BUT MFA HAS NOT YET RECEIVED REPORT.

7. METAXAS CONCLUDED BY REITERATING POINT ON FEDERATION. HE REMARKED THAT TURKISH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN ANKARA TOLD AMBASSADOR COSMADOPOULOS THAT FEDERATION IDEA IS HERE TO STAY. READING FROM REPORTING CABLE, METAXAS QUOTED "GOT TODAY INSISTS ON PLACING AS OBJECTIVE IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS FEDERAL SUI GENERIS SYSTEM."

8. METAXAS MENTIONED ONLY ONCE IN RATHER SECONDARY MANNER POSSIBILITY OF USG LAYING USEFUL ROLE. CHARGE LISTENED BUT WAS NONCOMMITTAL. WE DO NOT BELIEVE GOG EXPECTS RESPONSE AT THIS TIME. WE TEND TO VIEW METAXAS' COMMENTS ON "FEDERATION" QUESTION AS PREDICTABLE AND UNEXCEPTIONAL EFFORT TO PLACE GOG'S POSITION ON RECORD WITH US. GOG'S STANDING FIRM AT THIS TIME ON 1968 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK DOES NOT EXCLUDE ITS ADHERING LATER TO EFFORTS OF UN ON "BICOMMUNAL" FORMULATION, ALTHOUGH FOR TIME BEING GOG SOUNDS AS IF IT INTENDS PUBLICLY TO STAND ON 1968 FORMULA. BRANDIN

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